

More Slang

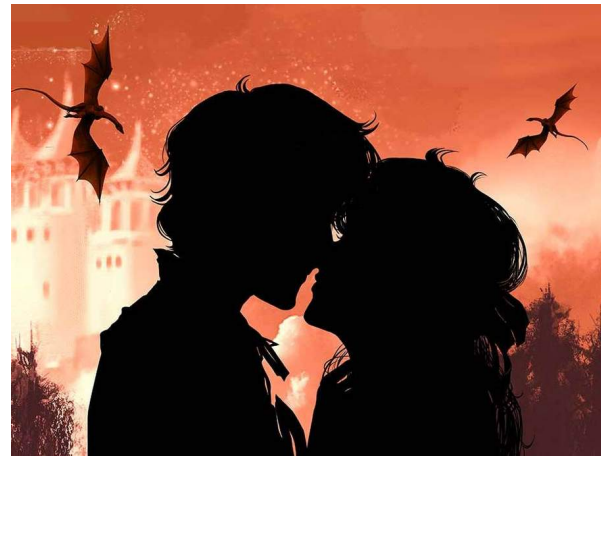
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Slang & Trending

romantasy

noun | roh-MAN-tuh-see

a literary subgenre blending fantasy and romance



What does *romantasy* mean?

Romantasy refers to a literary subgenre that blends together (to varying degrees) elements of fantasy and romance. It is also used for a story/novel/graphic novel/etc. in that subgenre.

Examples of *romantasy*

If you’ve been anywhere near a bookstore, library or BookTok feed in the last five years, you’ve probably encountered a growing crowd of ... fated mates of various magical persuasions. These are among the hallmarks of *romantasy*, the crossover genre that blends the passion and spice of romance with the escapism and high-stakes drama of fantasy.

—Jenny Hamilton, *The New York Times*, 14 July 2025

Romantic fantasy, increasingly marketed as “*romantasy*,” pairs the idealism of romance with the surrealism of fantasy, giving readers a break from dire headlines and humdrum daily life. ... The best romance stories portray all the joys and complexities of lovers learning to navigate their lives and emotions together, and *romantasy* offers fertile ground to explore that complexity against the backdrop of an imagined world that operates by its own rules.

—Vivian Nguyen, *Publisher’s Weekly*, 14 Apr. 2023

To discover that she [Venessa Vida Kelley] has a historical *romantasy* coming out *and* that it’s fully illustrated feels like coming up from a dive with buried treasure. In Coney Island’s Luna Park, Benny Caldera struggles to make a living building ironworks while struggling with how New York City will accept him as a queer Afro-Boricua migrant. His latest creation earns him a found family in Coney Island’s freaks, but then he falls hard for the creature that he has unwittingly helped cage: Río, a beautiful merman from a distant land.

—Natalie Zutter, *Literary Hub*, 2 Jan. 2025

My only complaint about *romantasy* is that people are starting to demand it of me, and I am not a spicy author. I am the Midwestern casserole of authors. There’s cream of mushroom soup in there. Please don’t make me write sex. It makes me want to die.

—@seananmcguire, *BlueSky*, 24 May 2025

... to me *Romantasy* means less emphasis on plot and world building and more emphasis on the romance.

—@TheFrogsHiccup, *Reddit*, 15 Aug. 2024

Where does *romantasy* come from?

Romantasy is a blend of *romance* and *fantasy*. Although the popularity of *romantasy* has been recently exploding, and some commentators believe the coinage to be similarly recent, our records indicate use of *romantasy* with this meaning goes back at least to 2010. The word *romantasy* has also been used as the name of at least one musical group and is the name of a long-running *corsetry* store.

How is *romantasy* used?

There is no small amount of online debate about what precise calibration of romance/fantasy qualifies as *romantasy*, but the word’s use has skyrocketed over the past few years. It is usually encountered in the singular, or before another noun (as in “a *romantasy* novel”), but the plural is *romantasies*.

BookTok’s influence on modern publishing cannot be overstated, and one shining example was the rise of the *romantasy* genre in 2024. Despite being discounted by some critics as “fairy porn,” *romantasies* ushered in an era of new fans of steamy fiction this year, with primarily women writers at the helm of this industry-shifting genre.

—Theara Coleman, *The Week US*, 19 Dec. 2024

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